

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 00080 051148Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-12 OES-07 DLOS-09 EB-08 /093 W
-----074134 051152Z /14
P R 051119Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 624
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KATHMANDU 0080

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT PRESS COMMENTS FAVORABLY ON PRESIDENT'S VISIT
TO INDIA

REF: A) 77 KATHMANDU 5344, B) KATHMANDU 0004

1. BOTH ENGLISH AND NEPALI LANGUAGE GOVERNMENT DAILIES
JAN. 5 COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT TO
INDIA. AS SEP USINFO TEL REPORTS, EDITORIAL IN ENGLISH
LANGUAGE RISING NEPAL BEGINS BY NOTING IMPROVED INDIA-USG
RELATIONS REFLECTED IN VISIT AND THEN BRANCHES OFF INTO
SIGNIFICANCE OF VISIT FOR REGION AS WHOLE IN TERMS OF
PRESIDENT'S SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION. PRESIDENT'S
CITATION OF WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AS LIKELY TARGET
FOR SUCH COOPERATION RECEIVED STRONG PLAY IN NEPALI LANGUAGE
GHORKAPATRA WITH BOTH PAPERS REFLECTING COMMON THEME
IN WELCOMING PRESIDENT'S PROMISE OF AMERICAN SUPPORT TO ANY
REGIONAL EFFORT ON WATERS ISSUE AND SEEING THIS COMMITMENT
AS CLOSELY TIED TO HIS MAJESTY'S REFERENCE TO SAME SUBJECT
IN LATTER'S COLOMBO PLAN MEETING SPEECH (REF A). RISING
NEPAL ALSO WELCOMES PROMISE OF REGIONAL BENEFITS FROM
US-GOI LANDSAT AGREEMENT WHILE NEPALI DAILY EDITORIAL
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CLOSES BY NOTING POSITIVE STATEMENTS ON NORTH-SOUTH
ISSUES IN DELHI DECLARATION.

2. COMMENT: AS NOTED REF B, GON OFFICIAL HAS ALREADY
EXPRESSED PRIVATELY GOVERNMENT'S PLEASURE AT PRESIDENT'S
REMARKS ON REGIONAL COOPERATION, MOST NOTABLY AREA OF
WATERS DEVELOPMENT WHERE KING BIRENDRA TOOK PUBLIC LEAD.

OFFICIALLY INSPIRED EDITORIALS ARE CLEARLY CONSISTENT
WITH THAT VIEW. IT IS ALSO INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT LOCAL
GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED PRESS, CONSISTENT WITH ITS FOCUS
ON REGIONAL ASPECTS OF VISIT, HAS NOT RAISED ISSUE OF
SPECIAL ATTENTION BEING GIVEN TO INDIA BY USG, TO POSSIBLE
DETRIMENT OF SMALLER NEIGHBORS. THIS WAS POINT MUCH IN
MINDS
OF MANY HERE -- INCLUDING NUMBER OF PRESSMEN --
PRIOR TO VISIT. PRESIDENT'S SPEECH TO INDIAN PARLIAMENT
AND FINAL DECLARATION, BOTH REFLECTING USG CONCERNS
ENCOMPASSING MORE THAN INDIA, CLEARLY HAVE HELPED ALLEVIATE
THOSE FEARS.
HECK

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Message Attributes

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